

# PRESS RELEASE

May 31, 2006

**RE: UNITED STATES v. PETER J. GIGLIA, KEVIN BLAKITA,  
JOSEPH ALAIMO, JR., TIMOTHY K. CROWLEY, ROBERT  
GRAESSER, CHRISTOPHER HAWKINS, JAMES METZGER,  
LEONARD MORDINO, GEORGE RADEFF, ROBERT SAMUELS**

**and**

**GREGORY SCOTT**

United States Attorney Terrance T. Flynn announced today the arrest of eleven individuals named in two complaints filed in the United States District Court, charging PETER J. GIGLIA, age 44, of Buffalo, NY; KEVIN BLAKITA, age 37, of Kenmore, NY; JOSEPH ALAIMO, JR., age 58, of Tonawanda, NY; TIMOTHY K. CROWLEY, age 41, of Buffalo, NY; ROBERT GRAESSER, age 35, of Sanborn, NY; CHRISTOPHER HAWKINS, age 33, of Cheektowaga, NY; JAMES METZGER, age 52, of Boston, NY; LEONARD MORDINO, age 56, of Buffalo, NY; GEORGE RADEFF, age 53, of Cheektowaga, NY; ROBERT SAMUELS, age 44, of Buffalo, NY; and GREGORY SCOTT, age 54, of Williamsville, NY, with drug conspiracy, the distribution of drugs and the use of a communication facility to commit a drug felony, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1) and 843, carrying a maximum penalty of twenty years imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000,000.00, or both.

Additionally, search warrants were executed at 58 Waverly

Avenue, Kenmore, New York, and 415 Virginia Street, Buffalo, New York.

It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. **(Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6))**.

Assistant U.S. Attorney George C. Burgasser stated that the complaints charge that the defendants Blakita and Giglia conspired to distribute cocaine from about May 2005 until March 2006. The remaining defendants conspired to distribute cocaine from about January 2006 until March 2006. Many of the individuals utilized cell phones or other communication devices to facilitate the conspiracy and the sale of cocaine. The investigation began when Giglia made a sale of cocaine to a cooperating source on May 17, 2005, and Blakita made a sale of cocaine to a cooperating source on May 5, 2005. These sales were monitored by the Amherst Police Department and the New York State Police. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Amherst Police Department, and the New York State Police expanded the investigation after that date to include consensually recorded conversations, as well as court-ordered interceptions of wire communications and continued controlled purchases of cocaine.

The complaints were the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Erie County District Attorney's Office, under the direction of District Attorney Frank J. Clark, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Laurie Bennett, the Amherst Police Department, under the direction of Chief John Moslow, and the New York State Police, under the direction of Major Michael Manning.